

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of September 10, 2003 is respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that the priority information contained at the beginning of the specification has been updated by the above amendments.

The Examiner's attention is further drawn to the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement citing additional information for the Examiner's consideration in this application.

The Examiner's attention is further drawn to the accompanying copy of the verified translation of the Japanese priority application to which benefit of priority is claimed on the Declaration and Power of Attorney form in this application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner withdrew claims 47-49 from consideration. Accordingly, these claims have now been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 14-15 as being indefinite. Some minor changes have been made to these claims to address the Examiner's concern, however. As such, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has now been overcome.

The Examiner further rejected claims 1-16, 23-29, 32-38 and 41 as being clearly anticipated by Oishi et al., U.S. Patent 5,655,954. Further, the Examiner rejected claims 17-21, 30-31, 39-40 and 42-46 as being unpatentable over Oishi et al. In addition, claims 22 and 50-51 were rejected as being unpatentable over Oishi et al. in view of Cronkhite et al. However, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted to be clear that all of the Examiner's rejections based upon Oishi et al. must be withdrawn.

As noted above, accompanying this response is a copy of the verified translation of the priority application that was submitted in parent patent 6,283,822. A review of the claims, and a comparison of the claims with this priority document, reveals that all of the pending claims are supported by this priority document. As such, all of the pending claims are entitled to benefit of the priority application date of August 21, 1995. Such benefit is achieved by benefit of priority to parent patent 6,283,822, which was filed August 11, 1998, which claims benefit, furthermore, with priority

to parent patent 5,830,045, filed August 20, 1996. This patent in turn claimed benefit of priority to the above-mentioned priority application, 234663/1995, filed August 21, 1995.

Accordingly, because all of the claims are entitled to benefit of the date of August 21, 1995, the Oishi et al. patent is no longer an effective reference. The publication date is August 12, 1997, which is after the filing date of the grandparent application. Its filing date is November 29, 1995, which is after the Japanese priority application filing date of August 21, 1995. As such, it may not be used as a reference against the claims of this application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims based upon Oishi et al. must be withdrawn. Such withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The Examiner cited the additional patent to Cronkhite et al. as rendering obvious the provisional of a secondary polishing turntable and polishing pad in Oishi et al. However, the relevance of this position has been rendered moot by the removal of the Oishi et al. patent as a reference.

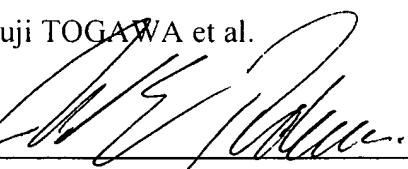
There being no further outstanding rejections in this application, it is respectfully submitted that all of the rejections raised by the Examiner have been addressed and overcome. As such, the claims should now be in condition for allowance. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 10, 2004

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